

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A system and method for providing a name service in a peer-to-peer environment
is described. A peer group name server may be a standalone name server that may be
used in peer-to-peer applications and environments. A network computing platform may
be used as a basis for establishing and operating a peer-to-peer network. A peer group
name server may cache information about peers, peer groups and other entities. Peers
10 may discover other peers, peer groups and other entities through the peer group name
server. A peer group name server may serve as a reverse lookup provider. A peer group
name server may act as a registrar for named entities (e.g. peers) in the peer-to-peer
networking environment. In one embodiment, peer group name servers may maintain
information about other peer group name servers, thus making a network of decentralized
15 peer group name servers.

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